UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA

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Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I am currently involved in a research project which examines the long-term impact of the assassination of President Kennedy on American public opinion. Part of my research involves the collection of data relating to the public's reading habits about Kennedy and his assassination.

One of the measures I am using to gauge the intensity and ocillation of public interest is a survey of book sales about Kennedy and the assassination. I am also soliciting information from public speakers on the reception and audience constituency they have experienced when touring the country, and speaking about the assassination.

I have already written to several publishers regarding my quest for sales information, but I have found that some of the most frequently cited texts have been self-published-such as your own. If it is at all possible, I would greatly appreciate receiving some information about the relative success you have had selling your JFK-assassination books. Also, it would assist me to know if there were any bursts or peaks in requests for books from you, and when they occurred. If you cannot trace your sales over time, some general notion of how many books you have sold of a particular edition would assist me greatly.

I have already written Dell Paperbacks, and Canyon Books, who published Whitewash, Whitewash II, and Oswald in New Orleans. Hopefully, you can fill me in on what kind of public diffusion was gained for Photographic Whitewash, Whitewash IV, and Post Mortem.

Although I don't have you on the list of public speakers that I have collected, I've assumed that on a number of occassions you have spoken to groups, clubs or campuses and the like. I realize that these requests must sound terribly intrusive and time consuming, but I have another series of questions to ask of you. (If you would like to record your answers on a cassette, I would gladly pay for it.) I was interested in knowing where you have spoken; what the general size of the audiences have been; did you notice whether or not the audiences were made up largely of young people-ages 17-25; did the audiences seem well informed about the assassination? About how often have you spoken on the assassination in the past 15 years?

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Does interest in the assassination of President Kennedy seem to be confined to a couple of clearly identifiable geographical areas? Do you think interest in the assassination of President Kennedy has waned? Or, temporarily gone underground? Do you find people explaining political events in the context of the Kennedy assassination?

I realize that the above questions seem loosely constructed, but at the present time, I'm just trying to get a handle on the topic. While an almost innumerable number of books have been written on the Kennedy assassination and possible conspiracy explanations, few studies have focused on the psychological impact the assassination had on the American people. Unfortunately, most of those studies were done in the tumultuous aftermath of the assassination- predicting of course, that over time, the people would emotionally recover from the loss of the president. I am trying to make some determination about the extent to which the body politic has recovered and readjusted.

I would be most appreciate of any information you could forward me regarding the public response to the Kennedy assassination and the conspiracy theories that have cropped up. As I indicated above, I would pay for whatever costs you may incur. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ethel A. Galzerano

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